



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Mark Kane Goldstein

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Thank you for your July 31, 2020, electronic mail to Mr. Lawrence Starfield, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In your electronic mail you request that the EPA review reports that detail an unexplained mass atmospheric release of methane and to conduct an investigation. Your electronic mail was forwarded to the EPA Region 4 office in Atlanta, Georgia, for response.

As stated in the press releases you identified in your electronic mail, the atmospheric release was reported as methane and was identified using newly developed satellite imaging technology. The imagery identified the location of the release as just to the northeast of Gainesville, Florida. The EPA has reviewed these reports and has initiated an investigation into this release. Our preliminary findings indicate that the release may have occurred from maintenance operations at a natural gas compressor station located in Brooker (Bradford County), Florida. The primary component of natural gas is methane. The EPA is continuing to investigate the cause of this release and whether any Clean Air Act requirements were violated as a result of the release. As part of our investigation we have contacted other state and federal agencies that may have authority over this release, specifically, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

We appreciate your desire to protect human health and the environment. If you have questions or need additional information from the EPA please contact Mr. Kevin Taylor, Environmental Engineer, at (404) 562-9134 or by electronic mail at taylor.kevin@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Kemker

Director

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Internet Address (URL) <http://www.epa.gov>